

Message Text

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TAGS:

SUBJ: ESTABLISHMENT OF NAM OFFICE IN GENEVA

1. SUMMARY: MR. NICHOLAS HOLLIS, VICE-PRESIDENT AND MANAGER FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS (NAM) CALLED ON CHARGE DECEMBER 19 TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR SETTING UP AN OFFICE IN GENEVA IN CONNECTION WITH MTN. END SUMMARY.

2. NAM IS INTERESTED IN SETTING UP A SMALL OFFICE (ONE AMERICAN AND AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES) IN GENEVA DURING THE MTN WHICH WOULD SERVE TWO PRINCIPAL PURPOSES:

A) TO INFORM INDUSTRY OF DEVELOPMENTS DURING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS;
B) TO ACT AS LIAISON TO ISAC (INDUSTRIAL SECTOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE) WHICH WILL BE ACTIVE DURING MTN. THIS WOULD INCLUDE GIVING THEM OFFICE SPACE TO WORK OUT OF; BRIEFING THEM, SETTING UP GROUP BRIEFINGS BY U.S. MTN OFFICIALS TO ISAC MEMBERS; FEEDING BACK THE DEVELOPMENTS AND PERTINENT INFORMATION TO THEIR MEMBERS. U.S. MTN OFFICIALS HERE INDICATE THAT STR THINKS THIS WOULD BE A WORTHWHILE PROJECT.

3. MR. HOLLIS WAS CONCERNED WITH THE QUESTION OF WORK PERMITS IN SWITZERLAND AND SECONDLY WITH THE

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PRACTICALITY AND BENEFIT OF APPLYING AS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL

ORGANIZATION WITH CONSULTATIVE STATUS TO THE UN (ECOSOC), PARTICULARLY IF THIS STATUS WOULD MAKE WORK PERMITS EASIER TO OBTAIN. WE ADVISED HIM THAT NGO CONSULTATIVE STATUS HAS NO BEARING ON OBTAINING WORK PERMITS. WE ARE TOLD THAT IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN WORK PERMITS UNLESS THE APPLICANT IS CONSIDERED A "UTILITE PUBLIQUE;" OTHERWISE, THERE IS A LONG WAITING LIST, AND NEW PERMITS ISSUED ONLY WHEN OLD ONES EXPIRE. IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT NAM WOULD BE CONSIDERED QUALIFIED UNDER THE PRESENT CONDITIONS. ONE SUGGESTION WE PRESENTED FOR NAM'S CONSIDERATION WAS SETTING UP THEIR OFFICE IN FERNEY-VOLTAIRE, SEVEN MINUTES FROM GENEVA JUST ACROSS THE BORDER IN FRANCE, WHERE THERE EVIDENTLY IS NOT A PROBLEM WITH WORK PERMITS.

4. REGARDING NGO CONSULTATIVE STATUS, WE GAVE HIM THE NECESSARY INFORMATION FOR APPLICATION. HOWEVER, IF NAM APPLIED RIGHT NOW THE MATTER WOULD NOT BE ACTUALLY VOTED ON BY ECOSOC UNTIL THEIR SPRING MEETING IN 1976.

5. WE CONCLUDED THE MEETING BUT AGREED THAT WE COULD PURSUE THIS QUESTION FURTHER IF SO INSTRUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. THE NAM WILL PRESUMABLY BE IN TOUCH WITH STR. DALE

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